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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS Dated: June 10, 2012
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
Attn: The Honorable Dave Camp, Chairman
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade

Gentleman:

I, Ronald L. Curtis, CEO of Curtis Tungsten and majority owner of the Andrew Tungsten mine located in Los Angeles County, California wrote this OPPOSITION LETTER TO H.R. 4540 for the following reasons:

1. The Andrew Tungsten Mine is the only one in production in the United States, re-opened in mid 2007.
2. There was no domestic production of Tungsten Concentrates from July 1994 to September 2007. The US was totally dependent on China during this period to time.
3. Should the Committee suspend the import duty on Tungsten Concentrates it will bring USA back to similar situation of 1991. Curtis Tungsten filed a complaint with USITA and it was referred to USITC, Investigation #731-TA-497. Final Ruling was unanimous and it imposed a 151% import duty on all China Tungsten Concentrates, which has been reduced to current import duty level in 2000. Curtis Tungsten shut down in July of 1994 do to China dumping/flooding cheap Tungsten Concentrates on the world market which depressed the price down to our break-even cost.
4. Suspension of the import duty will lower the price of imports which will promoter predatory pricing and with in a short period, 5 years, cause the only producing tungsten mine to once again shut. The USA will again be totally dependent on China Tungsten Concentrates thus giving control of our National Security to a "Friendly Trading Partner".

A President of a large National Bank in Chicago made the following statement; "SHOW ME A COUNTRY WITHOUT MINES AND I WILL SHOW YOU A PEOPLE SUNK IN DEGRADATION AND POVERTY; AND POVERTY MAKES COWARDS OF NATIONS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS. ELIMINATE THE MINER AND YOU SET CIVILIZATION BACK TO THE DARK AGES."

Gentleman I respectfully ask that you vote to oppose the suspension of the import duty.

Thank You


RONALD L. CURTIS, CEO, CURTIS TUNGSTEN